

Capsule Summary
SM-553
Leonardtown Water Tower
Leonardtown
Public (Restricted Access)

c. 1925

The Leonardtown Water Tower represents a significant engineering structure that exemplifies the public improvements that occurred in Leonardtown during the 1920s. Following advances in public works as well as a growing demand for a public water supply, the Commissioners of Leonardtown erected the water tower, a network of underground pipes, as well as a water works down by the town wharf on Breton Bay in 1925. This modernizing enabled Leonardtown to improve sanitation, ensure a safe water supply, and hence accommodate future population growth.

To accommodate the building of the water tower, the Commissioners of Leonardtown purchased a small parcel of land near Church Street for \$500 from the Vestry of St. Andrews Parish. A right-of-way or alley extending north from Church Street was also dictated in the agreement.

According to a November 1, 1989 article in the St. Mary's Countian, an engineer named Leo Shadic, a Rensaleer Polytechnic Institute graduate from New York, came to St. Mary's County in 1925 to supervise the installation of Leonardtown's first public water system. Interestingly, Shadic recalled that the water tower was the tallest structure in town and remembered that one local resident climbed the ladder to the catwalk and became petrified by the height. Apparently, he had to be extricated by a small rescue party.

SM-553, Leonardtown Water Tower
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Industrial Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
Historic Period Theme:	Engineering, Public Works

Resource Type

Category:	Structure
Historic Environment:	Town
Historic Function and Use:	Water Tower
Known Design Source:	None

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-553

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Leonardtown Water Tower

and/or common

2. Location

street & number North side of Church Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Leonardtown ☐ vicinity of congressional district 3

state Maryland county St. Mary's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Commissioners of Leonardtown

street & number Tudor Hall telephone no.: 301-475-9791

city, town Leonardtown state and zip code Md 20650

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber JM 3

street & number folio 88

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-553

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Leonardtown water tower, constructed in the mid-1920s, is located 30 yards north of the intersection between an alley and Church Street in Leonardtown, Maryland. The structure is enclosed by a chain link and barb wire fence and is largely surrounded by one and two story residences. The enclosed property is largely devoid of vegetation

The Leonardtown watertower is a tall, steel structure characterized by its four supports that hold its round water storage tank. Each steel support is bolted to a reinforced concrete anchor. The supports themselves consists of two steel beams tied together with a series of diagonal braces. On the north and south sides of the structure, these supports are linked together with three pairs of tension wires and two horizontal steel beams. The southwest support also features a ladder that extends from ground level to a catwalk that encircles the water tank.

The water tank, itself, consists of rounded bottom section, a circular body, and a conical roof. The bottom section features a round metal tube that extends from the tank to the ground--serving as a means of transporting water. The circular-shaped body consists of a series of metal plates bolted together. The midsection also features a ladder that extends to the conical roof. Overall, the building maintains much of its original fabric as no significant changes could be seen during the site visit.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-553

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Leonardtown Water Tower represents a significant engineering structure that exemplifies the public improvements that occurred in Leonardtown during the 1920s. Following advances in public works as well as a growing demand for a public water supply, the Commissioners of Leonardtown erected the water tower, a network of underground pipes, as well as a water works down by the town wharf on Breton Bay in 1925. This modernizing campaign enabled Leonardtown to improve sanitation, ensure a safe water supply, and hence accommodate future population growth.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-553

St. Mary's Countian. November 1, 1989.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.5 acres

Quadrangle name Leonardtown, Md

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone Easting Northing

B

Zone Easting Northing

c

D

E

F

G

H | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed Description.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor
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organization St. Mary's County Planning and Zoning

date February 1997

street & number 22740 Washington Street

telephone (301) 475-4662

city or town Leonardtown

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

SM-553, Leonardtown Water Tower

St. Mary's County

8.1 Significance

Chain-of-title (Please note that all records can be found in the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse in Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber JMM 3, Folio 88

Grantee: Commissioners of Leonardtown

Grantor: The Vestry of St. Andrews Parish

Date: April 20, 1925

Notes: The Commissioners purchase the property for \$500. The deed subdivides the property from a larger tract owned by the vestry and provides for an alleyway leading from Church Street north to the tower.

Reference: Liber EBA 6, Folio 357

Grantee: Vestry of St. Andrew's Parish

Grantor: Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Diocese of Washington

Date: April 29, 1907

Reference: Liber EBA 4, Folio 328

Grantee: Vestry of St. Andrews Parish

Grantor: Asa A. and Anna G. Lawrence

Date: February 6, 1905

Reference: Liber JJG 2, Folio 101 (Mortgage)

Grantee: Asa A. Lawrence

Grantor: James A. Gary

Date: July 2, 1894

Note: This 2 1/2 acre property represents just one of seven pieces of property mortgaged by Lawrence.

Reference: Liber JFF 4, Folio 361

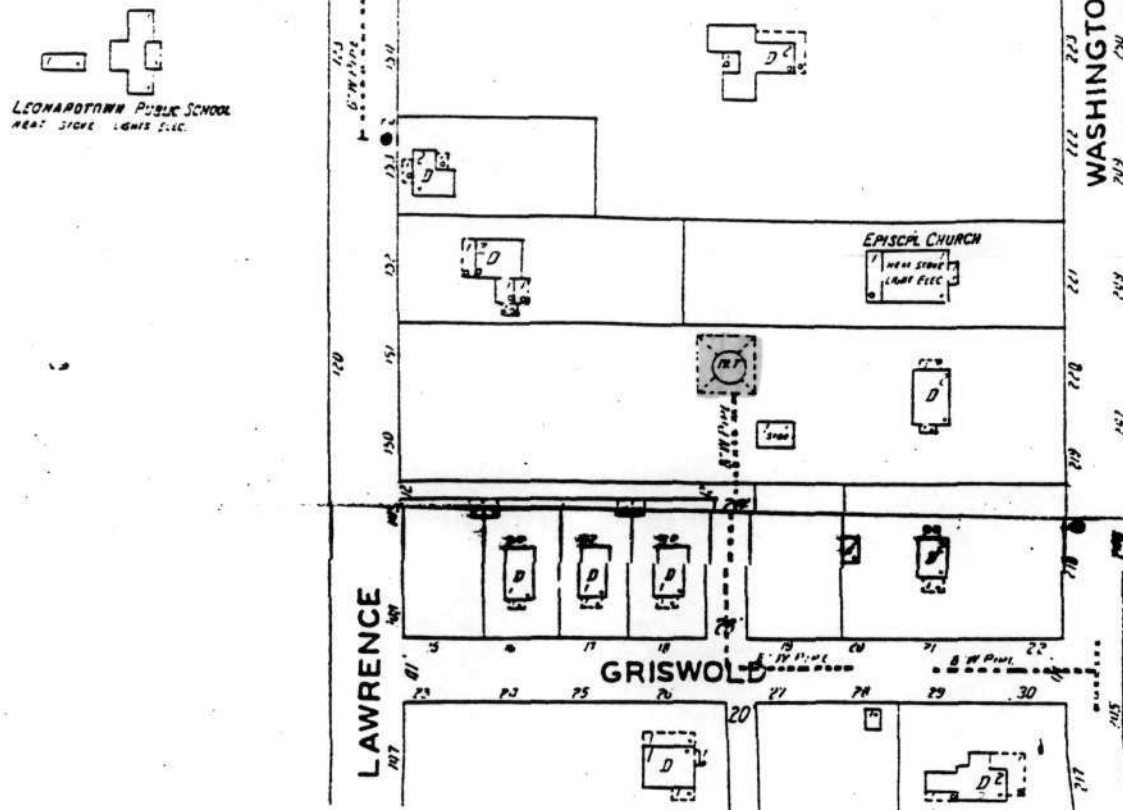
Grantee: Asa A. Lawrence

Grantor: Joseph H. Key and Robert C. Combs

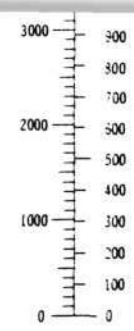
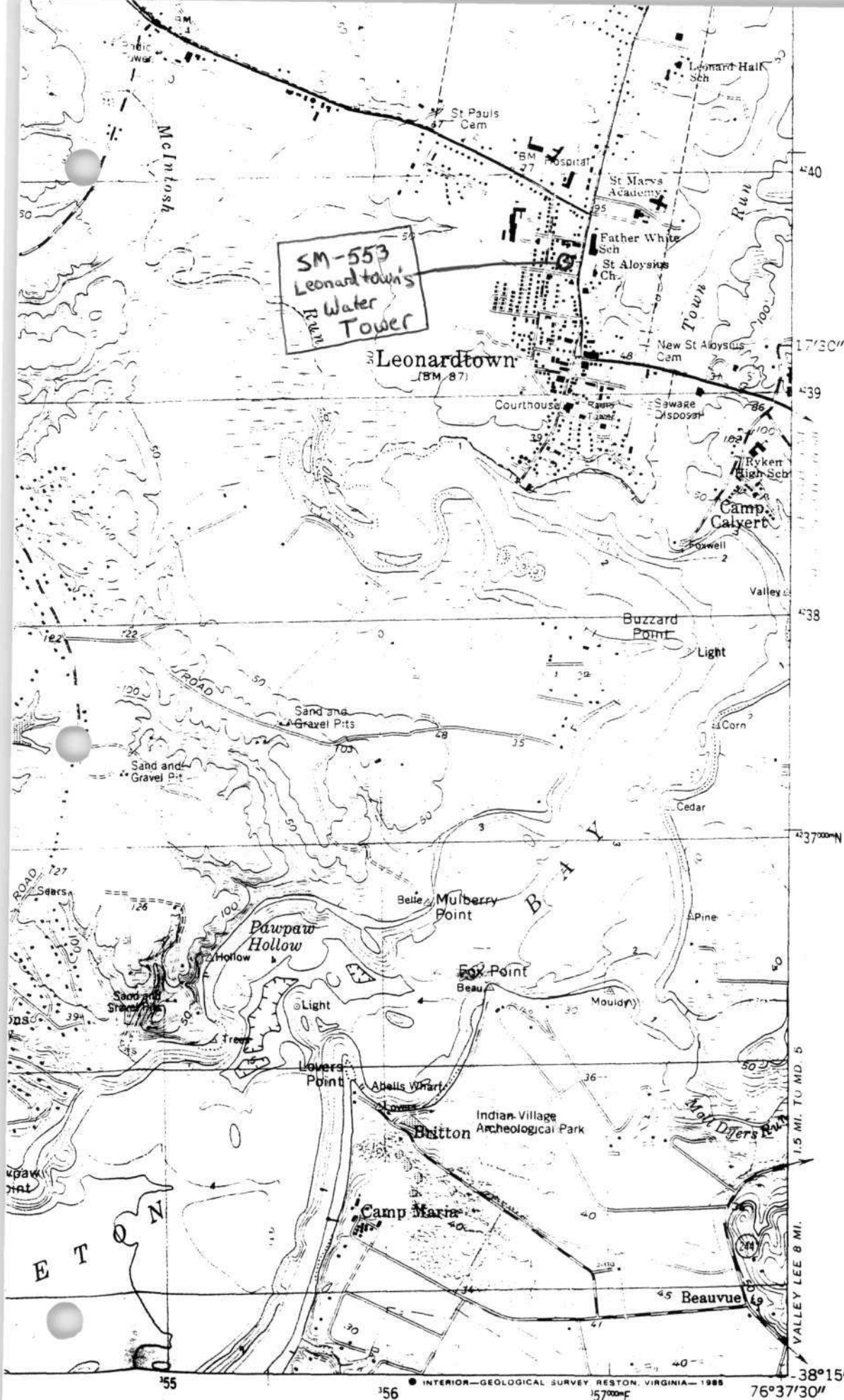
Date: December 23, 1880

Note: In this confirmatory deed, Lawrence is given official ownership of the land. Apparently Maria Key sold Lawrence the land without initiating a deed. Joseph Key and Robert Combs confirm the validity of this sale through this instrument.

SM-553, Leonardtown Water Tower
 St. Mary's County
 8.2 Significance



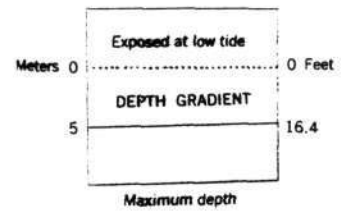
1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map depicting the location of the water tower just north of Griswold Street.



Feet	Meters
1	3048
2	5096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21336
8	24384
9	27432
10	30480

To convert feet to meters
multiply by .3048

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808



LEONARDTOWN, MD.
SW/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE
38076-C6-TB-024

1963
BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982
PHOTOREVISED 1984
DMA 5660 I SW SERIES V833

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ————— Light-duty - - - - -

(PIN-Y POINT
5660 I SW)

This is a detailed plat map of a section of Washington, D.C., showing lots 15 through 30. The map is bounded by Lawrence Street to the west and Washington Street to the east. The map features several buildings, including the Episcopal Church, and various utility lines like 6-inch and 8-inch water pipes. A specific lot, 17, is highlighted with a dashed line and labeled '17'. An arrow points to a building on lot 17, which is labeled 'H.T.' and 'STOVE'. The map also shows other buildings with labels like 'D.', 'HEAT. STOVE', 'LIGHT. ELEC.', and 'A.A.'.

LAWRENCE

GRISWOLD

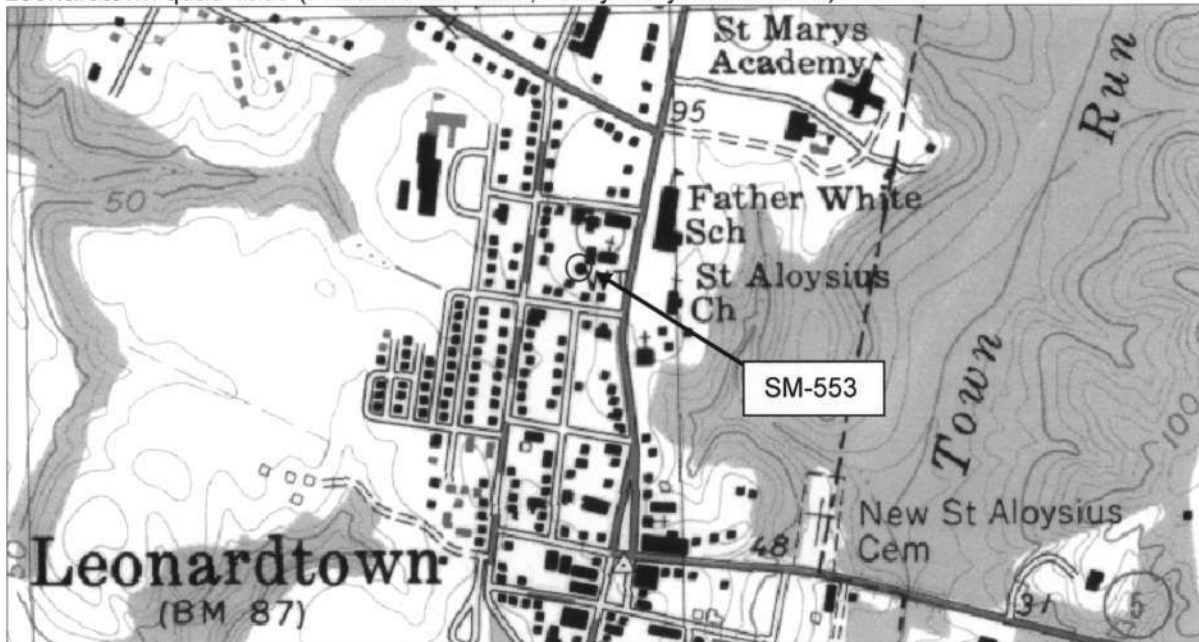
WASHINGTON

SM-553

Leonardtown Water Tower

Church Street, Leonardtown

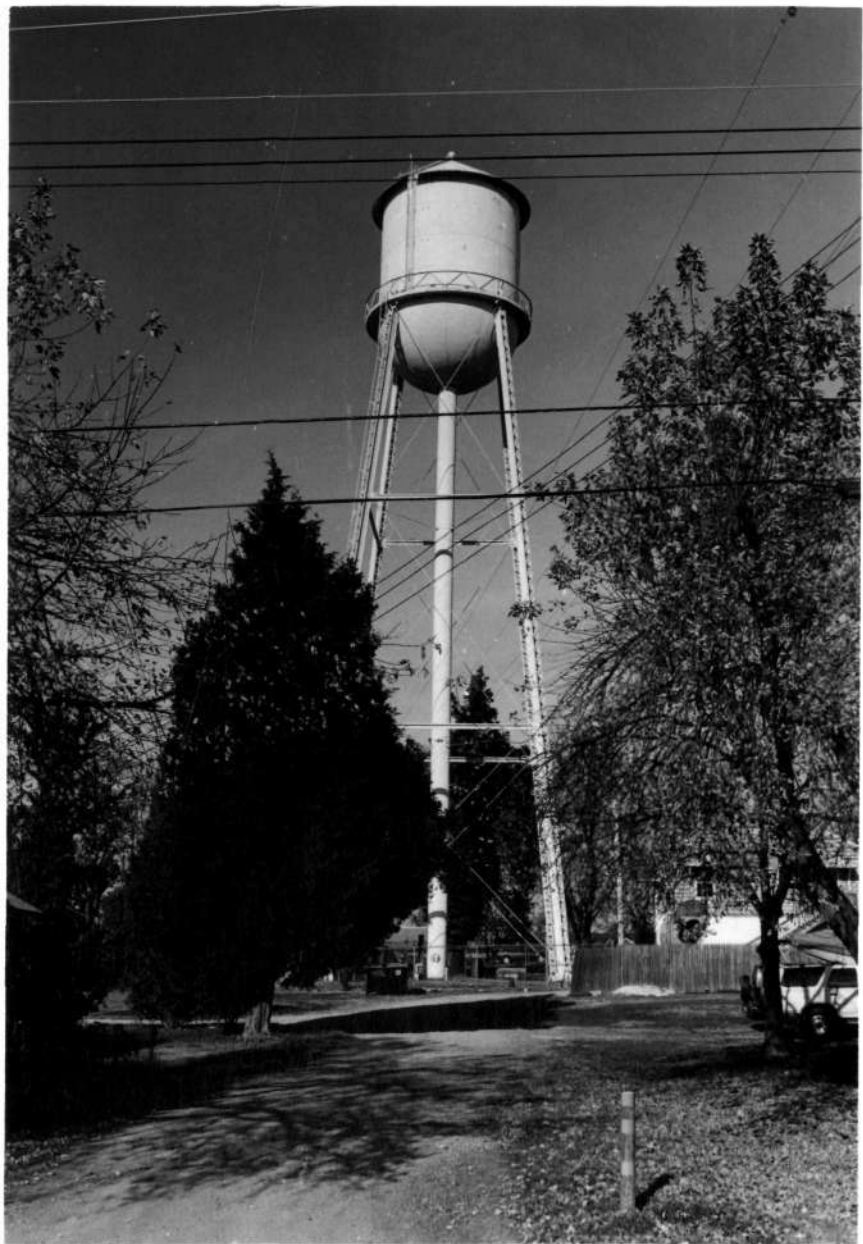
Leonardtown quad 1963 (Photorevised 1984, Bathymetry added 1982)



National Web Map Service 6" Orthophoto Map,
c. 2007-08

Tax Map 127, P. 269





SM-553

Leonardtown Water Tower

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

Dec 1996

Md SHPO

Elevation

1 of 1